

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 11th September 1880.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi"	Calcutta	2,100	
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	175	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
3	"Sansodhinī"	Chittagong	600	
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto		30th August 1880.
5	"Rajshahye Samvād"	Rajshahye	31	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
6	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta	700	30th ditto.
7	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto		3rd September 1880.
8	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh	671	31st August 1880.
9	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta	2,000	
10	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Bardwān	296	31st ditto.
11	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	350	29th August and 5th September 1880.
12	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	745	3rd September 1880.
13	"Hindu Hitaishini"	Dacca	300	
14	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye	200	1st ditto.
15	"Howrah Hitakari"	Bethar, Howrah	400	
16	"Medini"	Midnapore	250	1st ditto.
17	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore	487	27th August 1880.
18	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Ditto		
19	"Navavibhākar"	Calcutta	850	6th September 1880.
20	"Pratikār"	Berhampore	275	3rd ditto.
21	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kākiniā, Rangpore	250	2nd ditto.
22	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah	500	5th ditto.
23	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	500	30th August 1880.
24	"Samāchār Sār"	Allahabad	350	
25	"Som Prakāsh"	Calcutta		30th August and 6th September 1880.
26	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Ditto	4,000	4th September 1880.
27	"Shārad Kaumudī"	Bhowanipore	300	
28	"Srihatta Prakāsh"	Sylhet	440	30th August 1880.
29	"Tripurā Vartāvaha"	Commillah		28th ditto.
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>				
30	"Samāchār Sudhāvarshan"	Calcutta		
<i>Daily.</i>				
31	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Ditto	700	[September 1880.]
32	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	25th to 28th August and 1st to 9th
33	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	25th August and 4th to 11th September
34	"Banga Vidya Prakāshikā"	Ditto	500	3rd to 10th September 1880. [1880.]
35	"Prabhāti"	Ditto		6th to 11th September 1880.
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
36	"Urdu Guide"	Ditto	365	25th to 27th August and 2nd to 10th [September 1880.]
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
37	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	500	26th August and 2nd September 1880.
38	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta	500	9th September 1880.
39	"Jagat Mitra"	Ditto	157	
40	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	Ditto	200	6th ditto.
41	"Uchit Baktā"	Ditto		4th ditto.
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
42	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto	250	3rd ditto.
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
43	"Tijarat-ul-Akhbār"	Ditto		5th ditto.

POLITICAL.

PURVA PRATIDHWANI
August 30th, 1880.

Lord Hartington.

The *Púrva Pratidhwani*, of the 30th August, confesses to a feeling of exceeding disappointment at finding the Liberals, notably Lord Hartington, practically showing a changed front. When in opposition they had shown great solicitude for the welfare of India, but now all that seems to have changed. British statesmanship is full of duplicity. It was Lord Hartington who first raised his voice against the iniquity of the proposal to saddle India with the costs of the Afghan war. He is now the first to expatiate on the promising condition of the Indian finances, and to declare that India will bear a good portion of the Afghan war charges. It is feared that this "good portion" will gradually expand till the whole cost is thrown upon the Indian Exchequer. The action of Lord Hartington in this respect is a good commentary on the character of British statesmanship, in which the confidence of the people has been greatly shaken. Why was this war declared, and what has India gained by its prosecution? India has lost a portion of her population, while the British army have now, for their very lives, been compelled to leave the field of battle and return from Afghanistan. No one need be told what has become, or is likely to become, of their prestige, of which so much bluster was made. The people of India have now found out the British nation and seen through the devices of British diplomacy.

DACCA PRAKASH,
August 29th, 1880.

2. On this subject, the *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 29th August, makes observations similar to those noticed in the preceding paragraph.

Lord Hartington.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
August 31st, 1880.

3. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 31st August, contains a long article on the results of the Afghan war, and what the British Government has gained and

The Afghan war; profit and loss.
lost by its prosecution. The profit and loss are thus shewn in a tabular statement:—

An Abstract of the Gains and Losses.

GAINS.

1. The entrance of the British army into Cabul.
2. The destruction of the Afghans in the war.
3. The dethronement of Shere Ali.
4. The treaty with Yakub Khan.

Total

.. Nil.

LOSSES.

1. The war brings stores of grain and money in Afghanistan.
2. The deaths of British troops in the field and in the hospitals.
3. The erecting of fortifications in Cabul, where there were none, and making over the works to the Cabulis.
4. The loss of British prestige in Cabul.
5. Facilities created for the entrance of the Russians into Afghanistan and into India.

Total.... Twenty crores of rupees and the loss of prestige, and of ten thousand troops.

BHARAT MIHIR,
August 31st, 1880.

4. The *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 31st August, expresses its great disappointment at the altered attitude of the Liberal party, and particularly of Lord Hartington,

Lord Hartington.

towards the Press Act and the other unpopular measures of the late Administration. The Editor would not object to Lord Ripon's taking time to consider the character of these Acts, but what he does not approve of is the attempt of

the Secretary of State to justify, in a manner, the Press Act, on the ground that it is not a measure for which Lord Lytton is responsible, its necessity having been recognised by the Members of his Council. This, however, is not the fact. The Editor then quotes from a speech of Mr. Gladstone, and from one of Mr. Bright, in which the measure was strongly condemned. The article concludes with the question—Is it really impossible for morality and statesmanship to co-exist?

5. The *Sādhārānī*, of the 5th September, in its opening article, deplors the fallen condition of India. The people are ignorant and sunk in poverty. They lack energy and spirit, are distrusted by their rulers, and ground down by taxation. They expected that the Liberals would befriend them, but are now disappointed. The only hope is that time will bring on a change.

India under the Liberals.

SADHARANI,
September 5th, 1880.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

6. Referring to the remark of the Rent Commission that by an extension of the occupancy right the ryots would be gradually induced to erect dwelling-houses for themselves upon their holdings—a thing which they cannot now do for fear of eviction—the *Behar Bandhu*, of the 26th August, observes that this remark has no application whatever to the state of things in Behar, where the tenants scarcely pay any rents for homestead lands. There it is the zemindars who get houses constructed for the use of their tenantry, who, of course, keep them in repair. Only when such ryots follow any particular trade or occupation as that of milkman, or oilman, that they pay something in kind. For these reasons the provisions of the Bill relating to the right proposed to be given to the tenant to build a dwelling-house upon his holding are quite unnecessary, so far at least as Behar is concerned.

The draft Rent Bill.

BEHAR BANDHU,
August 26th, 1880.

7. A correspondent of the *Naravibhākar*, of the 30th August, makes the following observations on the draft Bill of the Bengal Rent Law Commission:—

The draft Rent Bill.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
August 30th, 1880.

(1). The provision that the landlord shall grant some compensation to the ryot, if the latter is obliged to relinquish his holding owing to enhancement of rent, is one that could never be equitable. Why should the landlord be responsible if a tenant refuses to pay at an enhanced rate, and voluntarily relinquishes his tenure? If the rent is but reasonably enhanced, there is no reason why he should not pay it. If the tenant refuse to do so, would not the landlord be a loser until, at least, another was found ready to take the vacant holding? It would appear, from the provision regarding the grant of compensation by the landlords, that Government does not wish that they should make any enhancements. If that were really the case, what would be gained by the power now proposed to be conferred upon them of enhancing the rents?

(2). The proposal made by the Commission, that the practice of giving *pottas* and *kabuliyats* should be abolished, would be productive of greater evil. The nature of the rights possessed by each party, the rent-rate, the period a tenure has been held, and other particulars, are all so set forth in these documents, that it is almost impossible for either landlord or tenant to act in any unfair manner. The discontinuance of the practice would render it possible for them to defraud each other by producing false evidence. The writing out of agreements is not an imitation of an English practice, and transactions in writing have always obtained among the natives of this country. It is therefore really strange to find that the use of written leases among them should be considered as anything

uncommon. There are tenants who, having obtained from the zemindar rent-receipts for one year, proceed to forge similar receipts, and thus cheat him of his due. It is for this that the landlords use sealed counterfoil receipts; yet they cannot always prevent forgery. Does this shew that the ryots are not familiar with written transactions?

(3). The Commission would repeal the provision contained in Act X of 1859, regarding the realization of rent by the distraint of standing crops. Their proposal in this connection does not appear to be judicious. The existing provision has this result, that it induces the tenant, for fear of losing his entire crop, to sell a portion of it to the mahajun and pay his rent. This does not in any way interfere with his rights in his holding, or produce any ill-will between him and the landlord. It is not therefore clear why the existing arrangement has been considered injurious.

(4). Nor does the proposal of the Commission to confer occupancy right upon tenants who hold from *mukarraridars* and *istemrardars*, as also upon those who hold permanently under occupancy ryots of twelve years' standing, an equitable one. If it were adopted, what would be the distinction left between the permanent ryots and the mere tenants-at-will? A tenant-at-will would pay his rent to the *mukarraridar* who would pay it to the zemindar. Now, if the former allowed his rent to fall into arrears, the *mokururidar* must make good the amount from his own pocket. In the absence of any *kabuliyat*, he would not be able to do anything to the defaulting tenant-at-will. Even if it were possible for him to do anything, still, owing to the expenses of litigation, he would not be able to reap much advantage. The existing arrangement regarding tenants-at-will is therefore much better. What again would be gained by accepting the proposal of the Commission, if the zemindars made the tenants contract themselves out of the privilege of acquiring the occupancy right by possession?

(5). That the tenant will not be able to mortgage, but to sell or otherwise transfer his rights in his holding, is a provision which in practice will rather prove injurious than beneficial to him. He cannot do without the aid of the mahajuns, who will now consent to help him in the hour of need only if the holding is sold to them. The import of this is clear to the people in the mofussil.

(6). It is proposed that when prices are low, or when, owing to the operation of any natural causes, there is decrease in the productive power of the soil, the tenant may claim an abatement of rent, and that, if the zemindar refuses to grant it, the former may relinquish his holding and claim compensation from the zemindar. Agriculture is an occupation which returns profit or entails loss just as other trades do; and for this profit or loss it is the tenant who is responsible. When prices rule high, the landlord gets but the usual rent; but when they are low, he is liable to grant compensation, besides an abatement of rent. Is not this unjust?

(7). The provision made in the draft Bill regarding the ejectment of, and grant of compensation to, the tenant, who, unknown to the zemindar, may have erected a house on the land leased out to him for agricultural or horticultural purposes, when the period of such tenant's possession is less than twelve years, does not appear equitable. The question arises—who has broken the contract? Doubtless it is the tenant, who rented the land ostensibly for one purpose and has used it for another. By acting without the knowledge or consent of the landlord, it is he who has committed a breach of contract, and yet it is in his favour that compensation is proposed to be made.

(8). The proposal to confer on certain tenants, who may show twelve years' possession, the right of occupancy in the case of homestead lands, as well as land let for agricultural purposes, will, if adopted, in the long run prove injurious to both parties.

(9). Interest at 12 per cent is proposed to be allowed to the zemindar on every instalment of rent which may have fallen into arrears. This indeed is a highrate, but it is to be doubted whether, after paying the expenses of litigation, the landlord will be able to obtain so much. Government is particular in the matter of realizing the several instalments of land revenue from the zemindars, but not to speak of illegal cesses, which have long ceased to be levied, they find great difficulty in collecting even the rent which is their due. The present law is working smoothly enough, and there is no need of fresh legislation.

8. In continuation of his remarks upon the draft Rent Bill, noticed in our last Report, the *Tripurá Vártávaha*,

TRIPURA VARTAVAHA
August 28th, 1880.

The draft Rent Bill. of the 28th August, observes, in reference to the proposal to make the right of occupancy transferable by sale, gift, or otherwise, that, if it were carried out, the nature of the rights possessed by the tenant in his holding would be altered completely. The right of occupancy is not one so comprehensive in its character as the right of the patnidar or the zemindar. The former right is limited in its scope, and ceases to exist if the tenant leaves the land for another, or fails to pay his rent. The right of occupancy co-exists with, and is dependent upon, the fact of occupancy. Now, if the tenant were competent to transfer this holding according to his pleasure, the landlords would in many cases be put to great hardship. The existence of ill-feeling between a talukdar and his ryot might lead the latter to transfer his occupancy right by sale to some powerful and aggressive zemindar. In such cases the talukdar would be extremely embarrassed. While the landlords find great difficulty in realizing their rents from the tenants, their estates are liable to be sold by auction for failure to pay the Government revenue. They do not always gain their object by having recourse to litigation. It is proposed to declare that the right of occupancy should not be saleable by any decree for the satisfaction of a debt. It is not clear what good will result from this provision when the tenant, as has been proposed, is given the power of making a voluntary transfer of his occupancy right. As soon as the mahajun executes his decree, the ryot will be compelled to sell his occupancy tenure and pay off the debt; under this disadvantage, however, that not being able to put it up at a public sale, he will have to dispose of his property by private bargain, and consequently at a low price. There would be no such disadvantage if the right of occupancy was not made transferable. The mahajuns would then wait till the tenant was gradually able by carrying on the work of cultivation to pay them, seeing that the only thing he could call his own was this occupancy right in his holding. If, again, this right was declared transferable by sale, the provision made in the Code of Civil Procedure, to the effect that agricultural implements should not be sold in execution of any decree would certainly fall to the ground, and the mahajuns be defrauded of what was justly due to them, while there would be nothing to prevent the tenant from extravagantly expending the money that would come into his possession by the sale of his rights in his holding. The draft Bill would alter the existing provision regarding the eviction of a tenant, which follows if within fifteen days after the passing of the decree he fails to pay his rent. The fear of eviction acts as a wholesome stimulus to prompt payment. If this ceases, the ryots will not care to pay with any promptness. As it is, it usually takes a year to finally dispose of a rent suit, including of

course the time devoted to it by an Appellate Court. If the proposal under notice were adopted, it would not be possible to execute a decree within less than a year. What then would the zemindars do? This would be conferring upon the tenants greater privileges than those which are enjoyed by the landlords. While the latter must pay the several revenue instalments by the sunset of a particular day, the former, it would seem, might remain in possession of their holdings without being in a hurry to pay any rents. It is indeed difficult to see how the ryots have come to deserve so much consideration. Both landlords and tenants would suffer, if it should be necessary to realise rents by the execution of decrees. They would be liable for the cost. The law of inheritance among the Hindus and Mahomedans is so complicated, that if it were made applicable to succession to the right of occupancy, the landlord would find it difficult to determine from whom rent should be realised. There should be some provision made in the Bill in reference to this last question.

PURVA PRATIDHWANI,
August 30th, 1880.

9. The *Púrva Pratidhwani*, of the 30th August, hears with regret that Mr. Bignold, Judge of Chittagong, in a recent case before him, wherein a young

woman had prayed for the grant to her of the probate of a will, ordered the clothes to be taken off her body in order that he might be able to judge whether she had attained her majority. This was done in the open court, and in the presence of many persons. No one could dream that an experienced and considerate Judge like Mr. Bignold would ever be guilty of such an indiscretion.

SRIHATTA PRAKASH,
August 30th, 1880.

10. The *Srihatta Prakásh*, of the 30th August, strongly supports a numerously signed memorial which has been recently made to the Chief Commissioner

The Gowhatty High School.

of Assam for the re-establishment of the High School at Gowhatty. The formation of Assam into a separate Commissionership would, it was expected by the people, lead to the adoption of measures for the improvement of the province. Nothing has, however, yet been done to justify these expectations.

SOM PRAKASH,
August 30th, 1880.

11. The *Som Prakásh*, of the 30th August, observes it is not

Sir Ashley Eden and the Behar planters.

strange that Sir Ashley Eden, who had directed the Indigo-planters of Behar to reform the many abuses which existed in connection with the industry in which they were engaged, should be glad to find that the local officers of Government bear testimony to an improved state of things brought about by the exertions of the planters themselves, and that His Honor should be offended by the strictures passed by Mr. O'Donnell. Still it behoves the Lieutenant-Governor to once more make a careful enquiry into the matter, and weigh the value of the evidence which has been adduced by Mr. O'Donnell and the Magistrates respectively. The Editor would ask him to attend particularly to one matter, namely, the practice which obtains in Behar in connection with the cultivation of indigo. Do the planters, he should ask, carry on the cultivation of all the indigo lands under their own direct supervision, or make advances to the ryots to grow indigo? In the practice of making advances, Sir Ashley Eden should see, lies all the mischief. The cultivation of indigo under the advance system does not bring the ryot so much profit as may enable him to support his family with ease, or put so much money in the planter's pocket as may leave him, after defraying the expenses of his high and luxurious living, sufficient profits. Is indigo alone sufficient to meet all these charges—an article which does not always fetch a high price, and the outturn of which is not equally large every year? It is clear the planters can never, under the advance system, grow rich without resorting to oppression. As it is, the relation

between the ryot and the planter is such that one cannot thrive without the other being put to hardship. The advance system was the cause of the indigo riots in Bengal. His Honor should further enquire whether the cultivation of poppy, cotton, or any other article of merchandise in Behar might not return larger profits. It should be always remembered that Europeans can never, without resorting to high-handedness, make large profits from agricultural pursuits in India. As to the favourable reports of Magistrates, it may be mentioned that in 1867 a large number of the tea-planters of Assam waited in deputation upon the Governor-General of the time, and complained of the law which defines the relations of the planters with their laborers. The members of that deputation also referred to the favourable reports of the local officers on their work. The Viceroy, however, was not sufficiently moved by their representations to consider the repeal of the law necessary.

12. The same paper remarks, in reference to the newly published report of the Famine Commission, that it is much like other official reports, and will disappoint public expectation. The cause of frequently recurring famines in India has not been found out. The Commissioners have travelled over much old ground, and would seem to be persuaded that it is impossible to prevent the recurrence of famines in this country. It is amusing to find that the members have sought to explain away the high mortality which attend famines, by remarking that it is in slight excess of the normal rate of mortality in India. The portion of the report containing a history of the past famines, and an estimate of the resources that should be applied if a famine took place in some part of the country every twelve years, is interesting and will prove of much use. The Commissioners expect a better state of things for the people of India when increased facilities of communication are within their reach, and capital accumulates in the country. These indeed are trite sayings; but when is this state of things to come? With the recurrence of every fresh famine and the imposition of new taxes, the savings of the people are gradually diminishing. It is not true that the people of India can soon recover from the effects of a famine. Are they able easily to pay the debts they incur on such occasions? The indebtedness of the ryot is the chief cause of his misery. The Commission has proved a failure. In their report the members have shown a heartlessness, when referring to the mortality and misery attending famines, which is really without a parallel.

SOM PRAKASH,
August 30th, 1880.

13. The *Sahachar*, of the 30th August, remarks, in reference to the recent distribution of prizes to the students of the Engineering College at Cooper's Hill, that, by keeping up its connection with this college, Government is doing an injustice to the people of India. It was established by Lord Salisbury with the object of securing to Europeans all the important posts in the engineering service of this country, just as the limit of age was reduced by him to enable them to enjoy a monopoly of the appointments in the Civil Service. His object has been gained. The civil engineers are not expected to do any administrative work, and yet the people of India are considered ineligible to important posts in the engineering service. Lord Northbrook, who presided on the occasion, referred to the feeling of dissatisfaction with which the college is viewed by the people of India, and remarked that, whenever it was practicable, Government would confer appointments in the Public Works Department on natives. This statement of Lord Northbrook has quite surprised them. Being natives of the country, they are inured to the climate, and are far better fitted than Europeans to do the out-door work which is mainly required of the engineers. It is, of course, true that the suspension of all public works

SAHACHAR,
August 30th, 1880.

The College at Cooper's Hill.

in India must be viewed as a misfortune, but the Editor cannot agree with Lord Northbrook that the construction of the railway in Beloochistan is a measure which should excite admiration. There is nothing surprising in the circumstance that a mile of rail could be laid in a day on a plain when money was being spent like water. Let two rains pass over it, and then will be the time to speak highly of the work that has been done. Lord Northbrook remarked that, in the construction of public works, the British Government has done more than its predecessors; but considering the time, power, and resources of the two Governments, there is not much ground for the credit that has been claimed. With the exception of a few light railways, have not all the main lines in India been constructed from purely military and strategic considerations? There have been railways made in those parts of India where the more warlike races dwell. How many lines, it may be asked, have been constructed in Eastern Bengal? How many have been made to promote trade or convenience of the people?

SAHACHAR,
August 30th, 1880.

14. The same paper contains a long article on the condition of the tenantry in Behar. While fully admitting the possibility of exaggeration on the part of Mr. O'Donnell, and of good intentions on the part of the planters and of Government, the Editor would still ask whether it is not a fact, to which Mr. O'Donnell has directed attention, that Behar is a ruined province. It is not a question of hanging the zemindars or the planters, but a matter which concerns the interests of an entire population. Now, has any answer been given to Mr. O'Donnell's statement regarding the condition of the tenantry in Behar? Sir Ashley Eden has recently made a tour through Behar, and further obtained reports from the local officers. These reports speak of an improved state of matters, and ascribe it chiefly to the good crops obtained last year. A temporary prosperity in one year, however, cannot be accepted as a proof of real and lasting improvement. The Editor would not blame anybody in particular. The zemindari and the *thikadari* system which favours these exactions have long been known to Behar. The landlords are now required to subscribe in aid of many works of public utility, and it would be quite unfair to ask them to accept lower rents, the more specially with the example before their eyes of the British landlords in reference to Mr. Gladstone's Irish Disturbance Bill. The planters might be induced to give slightly higher prices for indigo; still that would not meet the necessities of the case. The evil is of such long-standing, that any particular measure or law is not likely to effect much good. In Behar there is an overplus of population, but the people do not seem inclined to emigrate. If therefore Government really means to do anything for Behar, it is not by keeping an eye on the doings of the zemindars and the indigo-planters alone that it will gain its object. For the present, at least, it should (1) confer on the ryots permanent rights in the land; (2) furnish them with capital; (3) enact that the terms imposed on them by the landlords as to their liability to sink wells, plant trees, and the like should not be valid in law; and (4) further enact that there shall be no enhancement of their rents for the next thirty years, and even after that period if the zemindar is not found to have assisted in the improvement of the land.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
August 30th, 1880.

15. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 30th August, contains an article headed "Sir Ashley Eden's Report," of which we give the substance below:—Sir Ashley Eden's disagreement with certain leading medical men has had the effect of destroying his faith in allopathy and inducing confidence in the system discovered by Hahnemann. Believing with Hahnemann that the efficacy of a medicine increases in proportion as it undergoes an increasing number of dilutions, Sir Ashley Eden has come to apply the same principle to the

administration of Bengal, and holds that the more the natives of this province are harassed, the more happy will they become. He has supported his view by some recent public measures. He states that the Press Act, which, it was believed, was likely to injure the Native Newspapers, has greatly benefited them, and would therefore suggest that Act IX of 1878 should be made still more stringent in its provisions. On the subject of the license-tax, he approves of the views held by Mr. Monro, the Commissioner of the Presidency Division, and is able to state that this impost has served to remove all the evils from which the inhabitants in this division had long suffered. The introduction of the Arms Act, a measure which has taken away the weapons of the people, is similarly stated to have resulted in the destruction of a larger number of wild beasts than was ever reached before, when there was no Arms Act in existence.

Sir Ashley's action in reference to the hospitals has, it is pointed out, resulted in an improvement of the health of the people; witness the decrease in the number of hospitals in Bengal and that in the number of patients.

The introduction of the outstill system, which has cheapened liquor, has arrested the increase of intemperance. His Honor believes that this result is sure to follow, and has asked the district authorities to so attend to the subject, that his conclusions may be justified by the results of next year.

His Honor similarly desires to abolish all the schools and colleges in Bengal, in order that an impetus might thus be given to the spread of education in this province. He holds that the more strongly the wicked characters are put down, the more wicked will they become, and has therefore abolished the provisions which were made by Sir Richard Temple for their punishment.

16. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 31st August, after giving a summary of the report of the Famine Commissioners, and promising to notice them on some future occasion, contents himself with remarking that it is really inexplicable how the members could give it out as their opinion that during a famine it is simply impossible to save the people alive.

17. The same paper notices the defects of the present system of trial by jury, which often results in a miscarriage of justice. This result is chiefly due to the faulty method of selecting the jurors. Quite illiterate and semi-educated men, whose mistaken idea of charity leads them to suppose that it is meritorious to help an offender to escape the just punishments of the law, are selected for this work.

18. On the subject of the transferability of the right of occupancy as provided for in the draft Bill of the Bengal Rent Commission, the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 31st August, makes observations similar to those noticed in paragraph 8.

19. Referring to the Bill to extend the jurisdiction of the Presidency Small Cause Courts, the *Sulabha Samāchār*, of the 4th September, remarks that, considering the summary manner in which suits are disposed of in the Calcutta Small Cause Court, any proposal to extend its jurisdiction should be supplemented by a proposal to establish therein a full bench for the hearing of appeals.

20. The same paper observes that the tours made by the Lieutenant-Governor in the mofussil would be productive of much good if on such occasions they made enquiries regarding the condition of the people, the alleged high-handedness of the District Magistrates, the facilities of communication, and the complaints against the police.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI
August 31st, 1880.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

BHARAT MIHIR,
August 31st, 1880.

SULABHA SAMACHAR
September, 4th 1880.

SULABHA SAMACHAR.

SADHARANI,
September 6th, 1880.

21. A correspondent of the *Sádháraní*, of the 5th September, writes to say that during the recent floods in the Damuda, the village of Berugram, on its west side, was filled with water, and the sufferings of men and cattle in the village knew no bounds. Most of them had no food to eat during the three days the water remained. The authorities, it would seem, are determined not to see their hardship. Their petitions are not answered. The cutting away of the embankment on the west side of the Damuda has brought all this misery upon a million of human beings who live in this locality.

SOM PRAKÁSH,
September 6th, 1880.

22. The *Som Prakásh*, of the 6th September, is exceedingly gratified to notice that by his mediation, Sir Ashley Eden has been successful in effecting an amicable settlement between the Maharajah of Durbhunga and his brother. By thus acting as a peacemaker, His Honor has but performed a duty which is incumbent upon all rulers. A *sloka* from Kalidas is quoted in support of this remark.

SAR SUDHÁNIDHI,
September 6th, 1880.

23. In a long article the *Sár Sudhánidhi*, of the 6th September, directs the attention of Government to the necessity of providing the Hindi-speaking inhabitants of Calcutta with the means of educating their children in their own vernacular. No institution in which this could be possible being in existence, the Editor would ask Government to earn the gratitude of the Hindusthanis by directing that, in the Calcutta Normal School, the Hindu School, and the Sanskrit College, there should be established Hindi classes, and that those who might elect to pass the Vernacular Scholarship and the Entrance examinations in Hindi as their second language might be allowed scholarships of greater value than those awarded for proficiency in Bengali.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
September 6th, 1880.

24. Referring to the Bill to increase the jurisdiction of the Presidency Small Cause Courts, the *Navavibhákár*, of the 6th September, observes that the proposal to vest in these courts the power to try suits up to the value of Rs. 2,000 is one which will be generally approved of. It is, however, necessary that provision should be made for making appeals from the decisions of the Judges in these suits. As now conducted, appeals in the Small Cause Court are only a farce. In the absence of any records, the First Judge, who in such cases usually sits with him who first tried the suit to hear the appeal, generally confirms his decision. If appeals are, however, henceforth allowed, it will become necessary for the Judges to record all evidence, as also to have a more qualified bar in the Small Cause Court. The present body of practitioners are mostly incompetent. The proposal of Mr. Stokes to vest the Judges of this Court with power to grant probates of wills and try insolvency cases is fully approved of by the Editor.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

25. The same paper remarks, in reference to the report of the Famine Commission, that the chief cause of the recurrence of famines in the country is to be found in the poverty and over-taxation of the people. It is idle to blame the mahajuns. Who compels them to seek the aid of the money-lender? It is surely the Government, which is inexorable in realizing the land revenue, and that too in money, to obtain which the grain must be sold at a time when the market is low. Why does not Government, which is so ready to blame the money-lender, establish agricultural banks for the benefit of the cultivators, where money can be obtained at low rates of interest? Another great error in connection with operations to relieve the distress of the famine-stricken arises from false notions of political economy which prevail in the official mind. Exportation of food-stuffs from India should be stopped

during the prevalence of a famine, and Government should be prepared on such occasions to grant remissions of land revenue.

26. The same paper dwells on the superior advantages of the punchayet system and the Chowkidari Act as compared with those obtainable from municipalities, and is glad to find that Sir Ashley Eden has not approved of the proposals made by the Police authorities to curtail the powers of the punchayet.

The Chowkidari Act.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
September 6th, 1880.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 11th September 1880.

